Behala, CPT Land at Taratola, Barasat or Birati, Belda, Siliguri and Lake Depot in West Bengal; and

(b) whether there is any business division to supervise the affairs of the Central Warehousing Corporation relating to their business?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA) : (a) Construction of own godowns by the Central Warehousing Corporation is a continuous process and the Corporation is regularly adding its own constructed capacity all over the country including the Calcutta Region. The decision to construct own godowns at any centre depends on a number of factors, such as long term business potential, availability of land at a suitable location and at a reasonable rate, economic viability of the project, cost benefit analysis of hiring *vis-a-vis* own construction, etc. The position in regard to the specific centres mentioned in the question is indicated below:—

1. *HABRA*—A detailed survey is being carried out to assess the storage potential and identify the commodities that may be available for storage on a long term basis. Construction at this centre will also depend on availability of land at a reasonable cost.

2. *RIC BON-HOOGHLY*—Project for construction of a godown was not found to be economically viable for storage of conventional commodities like foodgrains, fertilizers etc.

3. *BEHALA*—Suitable land for construction of a godown is not available.

4. *CPT LAND AT TARATOLA*—The Calcutta Port Trust had offered a stretch of land in Taratola to the CWC for construction of a warehouse but it was not found suitable.

5. *BARASAT*—Central Warehousing Corporation has no plans to construct own godowns at Barasat for want of adequate business potential.

6. *BIRATI*—No Government land is available for a warehouse and the private parties are demanding exhorbitant price.

7. *BELDA*—Efforts are being made to procure land for construction of a 5000 tonnes capacity godowns at Belda.

8. *SILIGURI*—The West Bengal State Warehousing Corporation is already operating a warehousing of about 20,000 tonnes capacity at Siliguri. As per working arrangement with the State Warehousing Corporation, the Central Warehousing Corporation canno construct a warehouse at this centre.

9. *LAKE DEPOT*—No land is available at this Centre as the West Bengal Essential Commodities Corporation is constructing its own godown at this Complex.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Holidays to Chowkidars in Central Warehousing Corporation, Calcutta Region

477. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that up to 1985 Chowkidars of Central Warehousing Corporation, Calcutta Region, were being granted 16 holidays in a year; and

(b) if so, the reasons for which Central Warehousing Corporation is granting only 9 holidays in a year since 1986?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

b)) Chowkidars are entitled to only 6 holidays in a year in addition to the 3 National holidays. All Regional Offices of the Corporation were informed of the entitlement in February, 1973. It, however, came to the notice of the Head Office of the Corporation in 1986 that the chowkidars working in the Calcutta region were inadvertently being allowed 16 gazetted holidays. The Regional Office, Calcutta was, thereofore, advised to grant only 9 holidays to the Chowkidars. Chowkidars in all the other regions were being granted 9 holidays in a year.

Scarcity of milk

478. SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the Times of India of the 21st February, 1990 wherein it has been stated that milk is scarce in rural areas and when available it is @ Rs. 10/- litre, despite recent claims of milk flood; and

(b) whether Government propose to scrutinise the claims by Operation flood authorities and revamp the NDDB and its policies towards imports of milk products, commercial and gifts and exports of cattle feed around the year?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL) : (a)The Government are aware of the letter published in the Times of India dated 21st February, 1990 in this regard.

(b) No such proposal is under the consideration of Government.

Issue of legality of reservations for SC/ST

479. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently issued notices to the Union Government on the issue of legality of reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in education institutions and for employment;

(b) if so, whether Government have since taken any steps/decisions on the notice of the Supreme Court; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The notice of writ petition filed by one Shri Ujjal Singh has been received from the Supreme Court by Government. Due action is being taken to defend Government interests.

Reserve pool of skimmed Milk Powder and Butter Oil

480. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under O.F. II a reserve pool of skimmed Milk Powder and Butter oil was to be created and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this pool could not be created during the period when there was a glut of milk production, every year as is done in western countries;